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Shipwrecks with tons of Coins: Europe & Azores

The 1400s —

- In 1467 the Spanish commercial ship *Nuestra Señora de Burgos*, in route to Germany from San Sebastián, Spain was lost in the Irish Sea near Wales with 16 chests of gold coins.

The 1500s —

- In 1525 the 700-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Santa Maria do Paraizo* was leaving Lisbon for Asia with 355,000 cruzados in gold and silver coins. However, only three hours out from Lisbon's port of Belém, she was caught in a storm and she wrecked on shoals while attempting to enter the Tagus River.
- In 1525 Portuguese East Indiaman *Sao Vicente* with 250,000 cruzados in gold and silver coins aboard wrecked on shoals in the Tagus River just outside of Lisbon. Only six people and a dog survived.
- In 1537 a Spanish merchantman headed to Flanders from Bilbao was forced west by a storm and sunk near Cork, Ireland with the loss of all aboard and 27,000 gold coins.
- In 1566 the 450-ton Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de la Limpia Concepción* stopped in the Azores after being chased by Barbary pirates. Sailing from Veracruz she carried 1,250,000 pesos in treasure. While there, she was loaded with 1,900,000 pesos in treasure from two hurricane-damaged galleons. She then sailed for Sevilla but she sank in a fierce storm just offshore from Lagos, Portugal. There were few survivors.
- In 1577 the 560-ton galleon *Nuestra Señora de Buen Viaje* sailing from Veracruz and Havana with more than 2,000,000 pesos in treasure was lost in a storm near Cádiz. Only five crew members made it to the shore.
- In 1587 six galleons carrying 2,180,000 pesos in treasure were lost in a storm as they neared Cádiz.
- In 1568 the 250-ton Spanish commercial ship *San Francisco* with 360,000 pesos in gold and silver and the 220-ton Spanish ship *Jesus* with 235,000 pesos in treasure were attacked by pirates. They sunk off Cape St. Vicente, Portugal with all lives and treasure lost.
- In 1587 the *Tierra Firme* armada was returning from Panama and Havana when caught by a powerful storm as it neared Cádiz. Six richly loaded galleons sank in the area, five on the Sanlúcar Bar. A treasure valued at 2,1180,000 pesos was lost.

- In the 1550s the Spanish galley *Buen Jesús* was sailing from Cádiz and Flanders with 430,000 pesos in silver coins to pay soldiers fighting in the Netherlands. She wrecked on a small island in the Bay of Biscay and was totally lost.
- In 1589 a Spanish galleon with a large treasure from the Americas sank near Cornwall, England. Contemporary salvage crews recovered various tons of silver ingots and 23 chests of silver coins. The remainder disappeared into the sands of the seabed. Potosí silver ingots produced this year is not known.
- In 1596 63 Spanish ships in the Cádiz area, most just in from the Americas, were attacked by a fleet of 151 English and Dutch ships. To prevent the enemy from getting at treasure estimated at 25,000,000 pesos, the Spanish burned their ships. They also paid a ransom of 500,000 gold ducats to keep Cádiz from being destroyed.

The 1600s —

- In 1602 several Spanish ships recently arrived from the Americas were hiding in the port of Coimbra, Portugal. The 800-ton flagship had 1,240,000 pesos in treasure aboard. A fleet of English warships attacked, sunk five ships and captured a galleon with a cargo of some 1,000,000 peso of treasure.
- In 1605 the 450-ton *Nuestra Señora de Rosario* and the 400-ton *Santa Monica* in from Honduras fetched up on the bar of Sanlúcar near Cadiz and lost more than 1,000,000 pesos in treasure.
- In 1609 the 100-ton Spanish ship *San Antonio* was sailing from Cadiz to Genoa with 198,000 pesos in silver coins to buy mercury. She was attacked by a Netherlands warship off Gibraltar. She was set afire by her crew to keep her treasure out of enemy hands. When she exploded it was said that coins rained down on the shore.
- In 1610 the 1,200-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Nossa Senhora da Oliveira* was sailing from Lisbon for India with 410,000 cruzados in gold and silver on board. She wrecked on the Bar of Lisbon and sank in deep water. Her companion ship, the 960-ton *Nossa Senhora da Livramento*, loaded with 673,000 cruzados in treasure wrecked on a shoal near the Tagus River entrance.
- In 1612 the 2,100-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Nossa Senhora do Belém* leaving Lisbon for India with a great quantity of gold and silver on board when she wrecked on the Cabeza Seca reef just outside the Tagus River.
- In 1615 the 1,100-ton Spanish flagship *San Luis* was carrying 460,000 pesos in gold and silver coins for soldiers' pay in Holland sank near Dunkirk in the English Channel with a great loss of life.
- In 1616 the 500-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Gelderland* with a load of 240,000 guilders in silver and gold coins had just left her home port for Asia when she was wrecked in a storm near Flushing Holland. Three salvage attempts failed to bring up any gold or silver.
- In 1616 five galleons returning from the Americas with 2,300,000 pesos in gold and silver could not enter pirate-blockaded Cádiz bay and sailed on into the Mediterranean Sea. They were overtaken by a storm and wrecked on the shores of Almería. Rough seas still wash silver coins onto the beaches there from time to time.

- In 1618 the small 50-ton Spanish advice boat *Las Augustias* was returning from Veracruz to Cadiz when she was sunk in a storm off the south coast of Portugal. When authorities learned she was loaded with 290,000 pesos in illegal treasure her captain was sentenced to life in the royal galleys.
- In 1619 the 120-ton Spanish commercial ship *Nuestra Señora de Socorro*, sank in a storm on the Pontevedra River in Galicia. She was a smaller register ship allowed to sell merchandise in the Americas but was not allowed to return to Spain with more than 50,000 pesos in gold and silver. However, she was loaded with 265,000 pesos worth of gold and silver so her captain sailed to Vigo rather than the more vigilant Sevilla.
- In 1625 the Spanish galleon San Juan was returning from Veracruz with 875,000 pesos in gold and silver when a storm forced her to divert to Lisbon. She, like many other ships, wrecked on the Shoals of Cachopos and was totally lost.
- In 1625 the 650-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Alkmaar* was preparing to leave Holland for Jakarta with 380,000 in gold and silver coins when she sank in the Texel area.
- In 1626 the 600-ton Dutch East Indiaman also named the *Alkmaar* was loaded with 200,000 guilders in silver coins when she sunk off Oporto, Portugal. The crew that made it to land were later ransomed.
- In 1637 the Portuguese commercial ship *Nossa Senhora da Conceicao* with 450,000 cruzados in gold and silver coins and bullion aboard was attacked by Barbary pirates. She caught fire and sank off of Ericeira, Portugal.
- In 1639 10 warships sailed from Cadiz to Flanders with a flagship loaded with 1,500,000 pesos in gold and silver coins. This armada was attacked off the coast of Galicia by a French combat fleet which burned and sank seven of the ships including the *capitana* with the coins.
- In 1640 Spain lost 43 large galleons, various smaller craft and 6,000 men in the English Channel during several days of battle with a Netherlands fleet. The Spanish ships were loaded with large amounts of gold and silver coins.
- In 1643 the 500-ton Spanish galleon *Santa Ana*, loaded with 690,000 pesos in treasure from Veracruz, sank in a storm a few miles off Cape St Vincent, Portugal. King Felipe IV was particularly distressed as this loss because the ship was carrying a gift from his viceroy of Peru: a 100 pound gold nugget.
- In 1656 the 700-ton galleon *San Francisco Xavier* exploded and sank in Cádiz Bay with more than 2,000,000 pesos of treasure on board. After a normal 58-day from Havana her fleet was attacked by a British squadron on the south coast of Spain. She escaped the sea battle and made her way back to port only to blow up. In about 1990 a fisherman pulled up two chests of gold coins in his nets which may have come from this ship.
- In 1662 the 400-ton Spanish Merchantman *San Esteban* with more than 1,000,000 pesos in Mexican silver and gold was at anchor in Cádiz Bay when a fire broke out and she sank. King Felipe IV learned the vessel had been in port for three days without being off-loaded. He sentenced several customs officials who took a few days off to enjoy a festival to life sentences as galley slaves.
- In 1666 the 440-ton Spanish Merchantman *Nuestra Señora de Begoña* was bringing 473,000 pesos in gold and silver from Panama when she was attacked and sunk by Algerian corsairs near

Cape Santa María on the coast of Southern Portugal. The pirates later ransomed the captured crew.

- In 1666 the 1750-ton Danish East Indiaman *St. Michael Archangel* was headed to Asia with 430 chests of Spanish 8 reales coins when she was blown far off course in a storm and crashed off the north tip of Scotland. Only six of the crew made it to land.
- In 1667 a German ship, owned by the Hanseatic Merchants of Hamburg, sank near Belém in the Tagus river with more than 500,000 Spanish eight reales coins.
- In 1672 the 1,400-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Nossa Senhora de Ajuda* sailing from Lisbon to Macao with 480,000 cruzados in gold and silver wrecked at Cabo da Roca just hours after leaving the Tagus River.
- In 1672 the 1,200-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Nossa Senhora de Piedade* was attacked by Algerian pirates and wrecked near Cabo da Roca. She was returning to Lisbon from India with 600,000 cruzados in cargo and had stopped in Brazil to load 16 tons of gold coins and ingots.
- In 1693 a giant British fleet of 166 merchantmen guarded by 40 warships was assembled off Portsmouth, England. The HMS *Sussex*, the group's flagship carried nine tons of gold coins the king was presenting to the Duke of Savoy. The convoy stopped at Gibraltar and shortly after than the *Sussex* sank in a storm. She went down with only two survivors. *Odyssey Marine* found the wreck after a three year search in 2001. Her gold coins are now valued at from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Plans to salvage the ship were underway a decade ago.
- In 1695 the galleon *Santa Teresa de Avila* was approaching Iberia from Havana with 1,200,000 pesos of gold and silver. She spotted British warship squadron and diverted to Lisbon. She struck a shoal entering the Tagus River near Setúbal and was completely wrecked.
- In 1695 there was an odd example of Spanish-French rivalry. The Spanish warship *Nuestra Señora de Concepción* was sailing from Cadiz to Genoa with 390,000 pesos in gold and silver coins when she encountered a French warship. The captain demanded the Spanish ship fire salvos to salute the French. The Spanish chose to fire at the French with grapeshot. That set off a three hour battle and the *Concepción* sunk.

The 1700s —

- In 1700 a ship owned by the Knights of Malta loaded with 55,000 Venetian gold ducats sank off of Palermo, Sicily with only some of her crew saved.
- In 1702 a Spanish convoy from the Americas encountered a fleet of English and Dutch warships along the coast of Southern Spain. Seeing that they could not get to Cadiz, they sailed north to Vigo by where all 29 ships ran aground. Only a small part of the gold and silver was removed before the pursuing enemy ships arrived. One British warship was towing a captured galleon with 2,000,000 pesos in gold and silver on board to England. It was sunk in about 350 feet of water during this incident. This was a huge loss to Spain that totaled more than 30,000,000 pesos in treasure and ships. In 1893 a California company attempted to recover some treasure but were stopped by a bottom of deep mud. In the late 1900s five other groups have attempted to find this treasure.
- In 1703 the 588-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Renswoude* was sailing for Jakarta with 236,000 guilders in gold and silver when she wrecked off one of the Friesian Islands. Only a few of the crew were saved.

- In 1711 the Spanish royal galley *Capitana* captured a Barbary pirate vessel loaded with a huge amount of treasure gathered from several ships over the last seven months. It was sunk in the Straits of Messina with all lives and treasure lost.
- In 1712 the Spanish galleon *Almirantra* was sailing home from Havana with 1,870,000 pesos in gold and silver when she wrecked in a storm off Faro, Portugal. Three salvage operations were unable to recover any treasure.
- In 1713 a galley belonging to Pope Clement XI sailing from Genoa with 80,000 gold ducats aboard fetched up on rocks on Italy's Tuscan coast. All the treasure and some men were lost in the wreck.
- In 1718 the huge 2,000-ton carrack *Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem* was returning from Brazil with 1,000,000 coins plus 24 tons of gold bars. She wrecked a few miles north of Figueira da Foz, Portugal. Three other ships of the fleet wrecked in that area with an unknown amount of gold. Salvage attempts after the wrecks failed to recover any treasure.
- In 1727 the 850-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Luchtenburg* was sailing for Jakarta with 389,000 guilders in gold and silver coins when she was sunk by a storm near Wieringen Island, which is now part of mainland Netherlands.
- In 1729 the 450-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Burren* set out for China with a cargo of 450,000 guilders in treasure. Just a day into the voyage she was smashed by a storm on the sand flats of the Dutch Wadden Sea.
- In 1735 the 850-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Vliegenthart* and the 600-ton Indiaman *Anna Catharina* sailed from Holland for Asia. Both ships carried large amounts of gold and silver coins for their trade mission. Just an hour after setting sail both ships struck the Schelde sand bank and were destroyed. All 461 crew and passengers drowned. Shortly afterwards salvors recovered a few cannons. In 1979 English treasure hunters used historic charts to find the wreck of the *Vliegenthart* and recovered lots of gold and silver coins and artifacts. The wreck of the *Anna Catharina* has not been located.
- In 1741 the 850-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Bethlehem* was sailing to Jakarta with 450,000 guilders in treasure when it wrecked on a sand bar off the coast of Belgium.
- In 1742 the 650-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Waterliet* was headed for Jakarta with 350,000 in gold and silver. She wrecked and was torn apart by the seas off Calais, France. Only 12 survived.
- In 1742 the 650-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Ananas* was returning from Indonesia with a cargo worth 246,000 guilders. She had stopped in South Africa and loaded 28 chests of silver coins from another Netherlands vessel which sunk two years earlier. A powerful storm sent the ship looking for safety at Callais, France but she wrecked while entering the port.
- In 1747 the 370-ton British East Indiaman *Dolphin* was sailing out of London for Bombay when she wrecked on the Goodwin Sands. Her cargo included 40 chests of silver coins weighing about six tons. All hands were lost and no treasure was recovered.
- In 1748 the 1,150-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Amsterdam* was headed to Jakarta with 300,104 guilders in silver coins and bars. She wrecked near Hastings, England. At low tide her hull is still exposed.

- In 1751 the 850-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Amstelland* sailed from Taxel with 340,000 guilders in treasure for trade in Jakarta. She was blown far off course by a storm and sunk off the German island of Zylt.
- In 1751 the 1,200-ton galleon *Santissima Trinidad* loaded with some 3,000,000 pesos in treasure sank in a storm on Cádiz Bay, with nothing recovered. In the next year another storm wrecked 100 large ships. And the year after than yet another storm sank 40 ships. A French ships among these carried 750,000 *livres* in gold and silver.
- In 1761 the French warship *Courageux* was coming from Santo Domingo with 86 chests of Spanish eight reales coins when she was captured by a British warship. She was sailed to Gibraltar but sank in a storm near Ape's Hill. Just 130 men of her crew of 600 survived.
- In 1765 the 1,850-ton British East Indiaman *Albion* was sailing to India with £6,550,000 in gold and silver when she wrecked near Ramsgate, England. About 75% of her treasure was recovered.
- In 1770 the 1,100-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Vrouwe Geertruida* was on her way to Jakarta with 550,000 guilders in gold and silver when she was caught in a storm and wrecked off Brittany. Only a few crew members survived.
- In 1782 four Spanish galleons of the Tierra Firme fleet were wrecked at Gibraltar by a fierce storm. One of them, the 74-cannon *San Miguel* was loaded with 256,000 pesos in gold and silver coins.
- In 1786 the 1,483-ton Spanish galleon *San Pedro Alcántara* had sailed south from Lima, Peru, rounded the horn of South America and was headed for Cadiz with more than 7,000,000 pesos in gold and silver (coins most likely) and looted Incan treasures. She was broken apart off Peniche, 45 miles north of Lisbon. Major salvage work went on at the site for nearly 20 years. It is believed that 1,000,000 pesos in treasure remain to be found.
- In 1791 the 564-ton Dutch East Indiaman *Zaabstroom* sailing for Jakarta with 690,000 guilders in gold and silver coins and bullion ran aground and quickly came apart near Le Havre, France.
- In 1794 the 64-cannon English warship *Ardent* loaded with 22 chests of gold and silver coins was sailing off Villefranche-sur-Mer, France when a fire started and she exploded taking more than 500 crew and the treasure down with her.
- In 1795 the British ship *Catherine*, loaded with 21 chests of gold coins, was one of 25 ships that sank in a fierce storm near Weymouth, England. The ships were part of a 200-vessel convoy.

The 1800s —

- In 1802 the British East Indiaman *Melville Castle* was sold to the Netherlands and was taking soldiers to the Cape of Good Hope. She left Amsterdam with 330,000 guilders in gold and silver coins on board and wrecked in a storm on the South Coast of England. The treasure was never found. All but 18 of the 472 aboard died.
- In 1804 the 970-ton Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Mercedes* Sunk in 1,000 feet of water about a mile off Cape St. Vicente, Portugal This became the *Odyssey* scandal in 2014.

- In 1805 the Spanish galleons *Nuestra Señora del Popolo* and *Nuestra Señora de Barcelona* with a total of 3,000,000 pesos arriving from the Americas were both sunk by a British warship a short distance from Cádiz.

Wrecks of the Azores Islands with huge amounts of coins

- In 1541 the 350-ton Spanish ship *San Antonio de Padua* sank in a storm about 10 miles west of Angra, Azores. She carried treasure valued at 670,000 pesos. Since this was before the Manila galleons began their work, the load would most likely be gold and silver.
- In 1542 the 150-ton Spanish commercial ship *San Juan* wrecked in the Azores after sailing from Panama and Havana with 450,000 pesos in treasure.
- In 1543 six ships anchored in Angra Bay in the Azores were sunk by an earthquake's tsunami waves. Most vessels were hauling commercial cargo from India and Africa. But the 350-ton Spanish ship *San Bernardino* had just arrived from Mexico with 635,000 pesos in gold and silver.
- In 1552 two 220-ton Spanish galleons, the *Magdalena* and the *Santiago* were lost in a storm a few miles west of Angra, Azores. They carried a total of 1,650,000 pesos in Peruvian gold and silver. There were no survivors.
- In 1554 an armada of Spanish ships arrived in the Azores and were attacked by French pirates. The 350-ton flagship *Santa María del Camino* carried 1,000,000 pesos in gold and silver was sunk between two islands. Two other ships of the fleet were also lost: The 375-ton *Santa Catalina* was coming from Panama with 1,350,000 pesos in gold and silver and the 320-ton *San Andres* sailing from Santo Domingo with 400,000 pesos in treasure.
- In 1560 a large fleet of treasure galleons sailing from Havana scattered by a storm near Bermuda. The 300-ton *Trinidad* with 645,000 pesos in gold and silver and the 440-ton *Concepción* with 778,000 pesos in treasure made it to the Azores only to be sunk by a storm raging around the islands. Many crew members were killed.
- In 1561 three Spanish commercial ships with a total of 657,000 pesos in Mexican gold and silver wrecked off Fayal Island of the Azores. The ships were the *San Antón*, the *Santa Catalina* and the *Santa María*. There were only a few survivors.
- In 1563 the 250-ton galleon *La Magdalena* had arrived in Angra Bay, Azores, from Veracruz with 2,000,000 pesos in gold and silver aboard only to be sunk by a huge earthquake's tsunami waves. This year five such earthquakes hit the Azores with the loss of more than 200 ships of all sizes. Total losses were some 50,000,000 cruzados.
- In 1563 the small Spanish commercial ship *Nuestra Señora de la Luz* fetched up on a Azores beach. Her cargo was listed as hides, copper ore and dyewoods. But customs officials arriving at the wreck found she carried 700,000 pesos in unregistered gold and silver. King Felipe II ordered her captain and owner hanged. Her companion vessel, the *Espritu Santo* carried 275,000 pesos in treasure and wrecked shortly afterwards on another island.
- In 1574 the galleon *San Ignacio y San Jacinto* was sailing into the Azores from Havana with 445,232 pesos in gold and silver when she was hit by a storm and sank. Just a week before a Spanish advice boat, the *San Nicolás*, arriving at the Azores, was chased by Barbary pirates. She

was caught in a storm and sunk. Ironically, she carried huge amounts of treasure from the galleon La Magdelena which had wrecked on the coast of Mexico two years before.

- In 1579 an English privateer ship was hit by a rough storm just a few miles from Angra Bay, Azores. In an attempt to stay afloat the captain ordered all cannons thrown overboard. Then he ordered a large amount of captured treasure thrown into the ocean. Nevertheless, the ship sank, drowning some 300 men.
- In 1586 the 600-ton galleon *Nuestra Señora de la Concepción* sailing from Veracruz to Spain with 1,800,000 pesos in treasure was at anchor off Angra, Azores when hit by a fierce storm and sunk.
- In 1588 the 2,100-ton Portuguese East Indiaman *Santiago* was in route from Lisbon to Malacca with 412,000 crusadoes in gold and silver when storm drove her west more than 1,000 miles from the coast of Africa to the Azores. She wrecked trying to reach the port of Angra with most aboard being drowned. The water where she went down was too deep for salvage.
- In 1588 two small galleons wrecked sailing at night towards the port of Angra, Azores with a total of 1,000,000 pesos of gold and silver. They were the 120-ton *Nuestra Señora de Rosario* and the 150-ton *Santiago*. This year being that of the great failure of the Spanish Armada attacking England, most large ships were not available for the Americas.
- In 1589 the galleon *Trinidad* was stuffed with 4,300,000 pesos in gold and silver and leaking badly as she worked her way east from Havana. Her hold was half full of water as she approached Angra in the Azores. She sank in 600 feet of water with a large loss of life waiting to be towed into port. The Spanish Armada fiasco created this disaster, one of the largest treasure losses in the colonial period. The next day a companion ship, the 230-ton *Nuestra Señora de Guia* with 1,235,000 pesos in treasure was battling three British warships as she sailed toward Angra Bay. She suddenly exploded and sank with a total loss of crew. This English fleet sunk three other Spanish ships a few days later. Two ships carried a registered total load of 3,000,000 pesos in gold and silver.
- In 1590 the 300-ton galleon *Nuestra Señora de Begoña* sunk in a storm approaching Angra, Azores. She had arrived from Veracruz and Havana with about 1,000,000 pesos in gold and silver.
- In 1591 a giant hurricane hit the Azores and sunk more than 100 ships of a treasure fleet of 150 coming in from Mexico and South America. It was the worst loss of treasure in a single year: estimated at 40,000,000 pesos on the Spanish ships and another 5,000,000 cruzados in losses from Portuguese East India ships. King Felipe II disappeared into his quarters for a month, broke and depressed.
- In 1593 a convoy of 121 ships was headed into the Azores from Havana when it was struck by a huge storm just a few hours from Angra port. Six of the big galleons sank with almost all aboard drowning. These flagships carried in excess of 11,000,000 pesos in gold and silver. Other ships in the fleet wrecked on nearby islands.
- In 1596 two galleons of the *Terra Firme* fleet were hit by a storm just a few miles from port in the Azores and sank in deep water. They carried some 3,000,000 pesos in gold and silver aboard.

1600s —

- In 1608 the 850-ton Spanish galleon *Capitana* with more than 3,000,000 pesos in gold and silver from the Americas collided with another vessel while anchoring at Angra, Azores. She sank

in 130 feet of water with a large hole in her hull. The Spanish were unable to use grappling hooks drag the wreck along the bottom to shallow water. This same year a 400-ton galleon sank with 1,788,600 pesos in treasure while anchored in Angra Bay.

- In 1614 the 650-ton galleon *Nuestra Señora de Socorro y Buen Viaje* sailing from Havana with some 1,000,000 pesos in gold and silver was just three miles from Angra Bay, Azores when she sank in a storm.
- In 1636 a convoy of Spanish ships were hit by a hurricane near Bermuda. The storm damaged the armada's flagship which was loaded with 2,000,000 pesos in treasure. The captain had the load transferred to the 600-ton *San Mateo*, the secondary flagship. The *San Mateo* was already carrying 2,800,000 pesos in treasure. The fleet sailed on, only to be bashed by another storm near the Azores. The *San Mateo* capsized and sank just three miles from Angra Bay and another 11 ships sunk out in the open ocean.
- In 1663 three galleons sailing from Veracruz with at least 4,000,000 pesos in treasure all sank near Fayal Island, Azores, in a terrible storm with all aboard dying.
- In 1664 the combined *Tierra Firme* and *Nueva España* fleets were nearing Angra Bay when a sudden storm wrecked four galleons with a total treasure of 6,580,000 pesos.
- In 1690 a long and violent storm struck the Azores. Twelve galleons coming in from Havana with a total of more than 8,000,000 pesos of treasure on board sank within sight of land. Later in the year another earthquake hit the islands killing 1,500 people and the tsunami sunk 20 ships of various sizes. Still later in the year two more galleons, the *Nuestra Señora del Mar* and the *Nuestra Señora de Santa María* sunk just off shore with nearly 3,000,000 pesos in treasure on board.
- In 1692 two galleons coming into the Azores from Havana crashed onto the western side of Terceira island. One of the ships, *Nuestra Señora de los Remedios y las Animas* was registered with 1,300,000 pesos of treasure aboard. There was no report of gold or silver on the *Nuestra Señora de Cruz de Caravaca*.
- In 1695 the 550-ton galleon *Jesús Nazareno* was just an hour's sailing from Angra Bay, Azores, when a serious leak created by a hurricane caused her to sink. She carried 2,000,000 pesos in treasure and 335 people from Havana.

The 1700s —

- In 1718 a hurricane sunk 38 large, fully loaded ships around the Azores islands. Fifteen of these were Spanish galleons hauling 11,000,000 pesos in treasure from the Americas. Some 5,000 people died in the disaster.
- In 1720 an earthquake and tsunami hit the Azores sinking 38 heavy ships and killing 2,500 people. The value of cargo and treasure lost was reported as more than 12,000,000 pesos. Several of these ships would have carried gold and silver from Havana.
HOWEVER: Reports were that most of the gold and silver mines of Peru and Mexico were played out by this point CHECK THIS There were huge loses from Brazil in gold and diamonds these years.
- In 1755 five galleons from the Americas with 4,850,000 pesos in treasure sank 30 miles from Angra Bay, Azores with all lives and cargo lost. Later in the year the galleon *San Francisco*

Xavier sank off Terceira island with 1,000,000 pesos in gold and silver it had recovered from a Jamaica wreck.

- In 1758 a Spanish galleon coming from Buenos Aires with some 2,000,000 in gold and silver coins wrecked on Terciera island's west side. Gold and silver coins washed up on shore for months after the wreck.
- In 1761 a huge hurricane struck the Azores killing 8,000 people and sinking every ship in the islands. Included were 16 galleons and naos from the Americas with a total treasure of 14,000,000 pesos.